

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 318  
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the  
Cookeville Evening Lions Club on the  
celebration of their 75th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary service organizations whose members have, through diligence and dedication, contributed significantly to improving the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club is most assuredly one such outstanding civic organization that is richly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 1997, the members of the Cookeville Evening Lions Club will celebrate the club's 75th anniversary of service to the community and Lionism with a special reception and dinner; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club was chartered on April 29, 1922 with twenty-five founding members who were representative of the finest class of citizenship in the county; and

WHEREAS, since that fateful day, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club has loudly and consistently roared for a better, cleaner and more prosperous Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club was the first civic organization founded in Cookeville, and was the only such group in that fair city until 1936; and

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WHEREAS, during the early days of the club, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club served in many ways as a chamber of commerce, promoting numerous programs for civic improvement, sponsoring sports teams and banquets and scouting activities, promoting and supporting industrial and commercial prospects who were interested in moving to Cookeville, and participating in fundraising activities for numerous worthy charities; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club has made and continues to make contributions to many worthwhile community endeavors, including Leadership Putnam, Putnam County Bicentennial, Teen Center, WCTE-TV, ARC, Tennessee Hornets and various libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club has also been a stalwart leader in promoting Lionism in the Upper Cumberland area, and has sponsored new Lions Clubs in Algood, Cookeville (Noonday,) Crossville, Gainesboro, Livingston and Sparta; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning, Lions have been vitally concerned with sight conservation, and the Cookeville Evening Lions Club has remained true to this exemplary tradition by actively supporting sight conservation in Cookeville and Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, in the finest tradition of Lionism, the Club generously provides free glasses and eye care to those citizens of Cookeville and Putnam County who are in need; and

WHEREAS, one of the Cookeville Evening Lions Club's major projects, "White Cane Days", funds numerous sight conservation efforts, including Lions Chattanooga Eye Bank, Lions District 12-0 Sight Service at Chattanooga, Tennessee School for the Blind, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Lions World Services for the Blind and Lions Diabetes Youth Camp; and

WHEREAS, at the international level, Cookeville Evening Lions Club strongly supports Lions Club International Foundation in its worldwide effort to eradicate preventable blindness through various SightFirst programs; and

WHEREAS, the Club proudly sponsors twenty-one Melvin Jones Fellowships, which are the primary funding mechanism for LCIF programs; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club's primary fundraising activity is its sponsorship and operation of Cookeville's Annual Walking Horse Show; other major sources of fundraising are the parking concession at Tennessee Tech sporting events, mint sales, pecan sales and UT teacher proctoring; and

WHEREAS, during 1996, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club enthusiastically joined the statewide project Operation KidsSight in a truly philanthropic effort by the 6500 Lions of Tennessee to fund the Lions Eye Care Center at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital - a massive challenge to help the children of Tennessee in the fight against blindness; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Club voted to pledge \$100,000, to be raised over a five-year period, to fund the four million dollar budget for the Lions Eye Center; and

WHEREAS, in October 1996, the Cookeville Evening Lions Club held their first Golf Marathon as a fund-raiser for this praiseworthy endeavor, and through the superlative support of many individuals and businesses who gave liberally, the club raised over \$20,000 in the first year of their five-year pledge commitment; and

WHEREAS, although the good people of the Cookeville Evening Lions Club are to be commended for their great beneficence, peerless dedication and uncommon proficiency as public servants, the club's members graciously credit the greater community's outstanding support for the remarkable success of Operation KidsSight and the club's many other meritorious fundraising and service efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the members of the Cookeville Evening Lions Club on the joyous occasion of their 75th anniversary; commend their many estimable endeavors to assist their fellow citizens in Cookeville and Putnam County and throughout Tennessee; and salute their ongoing commitment to sight conservation and the eradication of preventable blindness worldwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to these sterling public servants our best wishes for every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.